

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6454

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 0952

USIA FOR IEE AND IMV; STATE FOR EUR/SOV; CU/EE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN, UR

SUBJ: PRESTIGE FILM SHOWINGS: "THE STING"

1. PRESTIGE SHOWING OF "THE STING" TOOK PLACE  
SPASO HOUSE JANUARY 21. ADVANCE PREPARATION AND WORD  
OF MOUTH REPUTATION OF FILM INSURED GOOD TURNOUT OF  
SOVIET GUESTS FROM BOTH OFFICIAL AND CULTURAL CIRCLES.  
APPROXIMATELY 170 SOVIET GUESTS TURNED UP.

2. IN ADDITION TO HIGH ATTENDANCE OFFICIALS FROM VARIOUS  
MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS WITH WHICH EMBASSY CONDUCTS  
BUSINESS MOSCOW LITERARY AND FILM WORLD WELL REPRESENTED.  
POETS VOSNESENSKIY AND YEVTUSHENKO APPEARED AS DID  
WRITERS SOLOUKHIN AND AKSYENOV.  
MOSFILM REPRESENTED BY DEPUTY CHAIRMAN IVANOV AND  
FILM DIRECTORS G.N. DANELIYA AND S.A. GERASIMOV.

3. DESPITE DIFFICULTY EVEN ON PART OF FLUENT ENGLISH  
SPEAKERS IN FOLLOWING RAPID FIRE AND SLANG-LADEN DIALOGUE  
AUDIENCE EASILY UNDERSTOOD MAJOR STORY LINE AND COMMENTED  
FAVORABLY ON GOOD ACTING, ATTRACTIVE SHOTS AND SNAPPY  
MUSIC. WRITER AKSYENOV CALLED FILM "GREAT" AND SAID  
DESPITE DIFFICULTY IN CATCHING DIALOGUE INTENT AND THEME  
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OF FILM QUITE CLEAR. MANY SOVIET GUESTS GOT OBVIOUS

CHARGE FROM GAMBLING SCENSE INCLUDING SOME CONSERVATIVE-  
MINDED OFFICIALS WHO COULD NOT HIDE PATENT ENJOYMENT OF  
FILM.

4. WHILE WE DO NOT WISH TO STRESS IT UNDULY, IT SEEMS WORTH NOTING  
THAT  
THE ATTITUDE OF THIS GOOD CROSS-SECTION OF SOVIET MIDDLE AND  
UPPER ELITE WAS UNUSUALLY OUTGOING, RELAXED AND POSITIVE BOTH ON  
ARRIVAL  
AND DURING REFRESHMENT BREAK. THE QUALITY AND ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE  
FILM  
WERE A GOOD COMPLEMENT TO THE CROWD'S MOOD.  
STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, MOTION PICTURES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**TAGS:** SOPN, SCUL, UR  
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